

**Administrator's Update for 5/23/12**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

I am proud of our Charlotte County employees, who together generously contributed over 17K to the United Way of Charlotte County during the 2011-2012 campaign. This wonderful accomplishment put us in the top 10 in the company campaign category. Of these contributions, 100 percent stay right here in Charlotte County and help friends and neighbors who may be in need of services from organizations supported through the United Way.

**May Days**

May is Older American's Month, Building Safety Month, and May 20 through 26 is National Small Business Week. Our county departments have seminars and special events to mark the occasions and provide information to the public.

In recognition of National Small Business Week, the Economic Development Office (EDO) staff coordinated events for this week including one tomorrow morning, May 24, 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM "Good Morning Charlotte! Wake up with Florida Economic Gardening Institute." This free session will be held at the Charlotte County Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte. Register by calling the EDO 941-764-4941 or e-mail [FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com](mailto:FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com). Find more information on the EDO and programs at [www.floridasinnovationcoast.com](http://www.floridasinnovationcoast.com).

To celebrate Older American's Month, Charlotte County Fire/EMS visited the Villa San Carlos I Senior Living Facility. Throughout the years, our Fire/EMS department and Villa San Carlos I have worked together to provide life and fire safety/injury prevention education for senior residents, including such events as an annual resident's Fire Safety Evacuation Drill. Among other topics that residents are education on are proper medical emergency procedures, home safety, and driving and passenger safety.

Charlotte County, along with hundreds of jurisdictions across the nation, observe May as Building Safety Month in an attempt to raise awareness of the importance of building safety. To mark the occasion, the community development department is hosting a series of seminars discussing the issues and questions that have arisen following the implementation of the new 2010 Florida Building Code. The next seminar will discuss the new flood provisions of the building code in relation to the county's current flood plain ordinance. The seminar is free and open to the general public free, and will be held on May 24 from 5:30 PM to 7 PM in room 119 of the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

**Code Enforcement**

The Charlotte County licensing and code enforcement manager recently spoke at the New York Section Neighborhood Watch meeting in Port Charlotte. The topic of the discussion was Code Enforcement with a specific emphasis on the County's Vacant Property Registration program for abandoned homes. In addition, attendees were shown how to file code enforcement complaints through the on-line system. This is part of the Department's outreach program and any association or community group wishing to have department staff speak at a meeting should contact the department at 941.743.1245. Popular topics include code enforcement, permitting, and contractor licensing.

**I2i Winners**

The Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council recently announced the winners of its Innovation to Industry (i2i) contest. The contest attracted over 30 applications with a wide array of ideas. The winners will start their businesses in Charlotte County with space and services donated by the Charlotte County business community. Awards were presented: first place to Thomas Contreras for his "TAC" device for diving/lobstering; second place to Paul Marcuzzo for a solar-powered phone charger case made of durable plastic; and third place to Dr. Sitharama Iyengar for his self-monitoring cataract device. New business start-ups are the best way to grow new jobs in the community.